

Non_Responsive

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Sent: Wednesday, December 15, 2021 11:48 AM
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Subject: DuPont USACE Baltimore District (FUSRAP) - Hazardous Waste Pile(s) Question

Good Afternoon,

On October 28, 2021, I performed a Large Quantity Generator inspection at DuPont USACE Baltimore District, which is located at 67 Canal Road & Route 130 in Deepwater, NJ. DuPont USACE Baltimore District ("DuPont USACE") has been issued EPA ID #: NJR000025940 at this location. I had met with Ken Quirk (United States Army Core of Engineers - USACE Project Engineer), who is my point of contact for this site.

A brief history of the site and update of the current activities are as follows:

In 1997, Congress directed the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (USACE) to conduct assessment, remedial action, and site closure activities for Formerly Utilized Sites Remedial Action Program (FUSRAP) sites in accordance with a Memorandum of Understanding between the Corps and the Department of Energy (DOE). Through this program, the Corps addresses the environmental remediation or control of sites where the Manhattan Engineer District or Atomic Energy Commission activities were performed during the 1940's, 1950's and 1960's.

In the 1940's, the Manhattan Project took place in an area at this location, which is the site of DuPont Chamber Works manufacturing plant. The Manhattan Project was a government project that was supported by the private sector. DuPont converted uranium oxides to uranium tetrafluoride and uranium metal. End products were shipped off-site for uranium enrichment at other locations. Operations were ceased in 1946 followed by decontamination activities. The area was released back to DuPont in 1949. Sometime after 1997, USACE assessed this FUSRAP and determined that further remediation was needed. USACE's remediation plan was to excavate 25,000 cubic yards of low activity radioactive contaminated soils from 3 areas; haul soils to an on-site transfer facility; segregate soils by waste classification; haul by rail car to dispose of soils to a facility in Idaho; and then dewater areas of concern as necessary to facilitate excavation. USACE hired the contractor Environmental Chemical Corp. (ECC) for this clean-up project. The project ended in June 2015; however, the project was not completed because the excavation grew (Areas of Concern – "AOC") as well as the costs, which were not anticipated. In addition, while excavating for soils of low activity radiation contamination, other hazardous wastes were found in the soils which are believed to be wastes that were not associated with the Manhattan Project. Thus, the large quantities of hazardous wastes that were found by USACE were excavated/ remediated and transported off-site by railcar to US Ecology in Idaho (predominant waste codes-D008, D009 and D030).

This project remained inactive from June of 2015 (when the remediation contract with Environmental Chemical Corp. was terminated) to July of 2018. In July of 2018, excavation resumed under a new remediation contract with Severson Environmental Services. In 2020 contractors encountered RCRA waste in AOC6, which was remediated and disposed of. To date, the original three Areas of Concern (AOCs 1,2 and 6) have been remediated.

At this time, excavation of additional FUSRAP contamination is currently ongoing at Area of Concern 4 (AOC 4) in a sub-area named SWMU5. Excavated low level radioactive waste (including hazardous waste) is being managed, loaded into railcars, and transported off-site for disposal. Wastes are currently being disposed at US Ecology in Belleville, Michigan (pozzolanic "stabilization for lead" – chemical oxidation treatment) and US Ecology in Robstown, Texas (thermal treatment). Next area to be remediated is referred to as the South Berm Area (SBA), which is part of AOC 4.

The waste piles (radioactive waste and mixed radioactive waste with hazardous waste) are currently being staged on one of two concrete pads referred to as Waste Transfer Facility (WTF) and Alternate Waste Transfer Facility (AWTF).

WTF: 2 non-hazardous waste piles and 6 piles pending determination.

AWTF: 12 piles of mixed hazardous and radioactive waste (HW codes include: D008, D018, D030, D033, D036) and 2 piles pending determination.

The mixed hazardous and radioactive waste piles range from approximately 118 tons to 454 tons with a total of 3,360 tons. The pending waste determination piles are approximately 5,785 tons.

During a conversation on 12/06/21 with my Bureau (Bureau of Hazardous Waste, Compliance and Enforcement) and USACE, it was mentioned that the two of you had visited the site. I was wondering if anyone could help me with the following questions below..

Are the hazardous waste piles being managed properly? The hazardous waste piles generated are not being managed in containers as per 40 CFR 262.17. USACE believes that they are exempt under 40 CFR 268.50, paragraph G AND also because of a Memorandum OSWER Directive 9355.7-03, issued by the EPA on February 19, 1992 (see attachment). Would anyone from your agency be able to verify if USACE is a lead agency of this "CERCLA" site. Additionally, can anyone verify if this FUSRAP is a CERCLA site or if it being managed as a CERCLA site?

Thank you for any assistance you can provide in this matter.

Best Regards,
Amy Scaffidi

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